

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5841

S E C R E T GENEVA 7120

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 3

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP -- USE OF SOVIET UNTSO  
OFFICERS IN SOUTHERN AREA

1. GAZIT CAME TO ME PRIVATELY MORNING SEPTEMBER 17  
WITH FOLLOWING: BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITY OF UN ROLE IN  
NEW SOUTHERN AREA AND SHORTAGE OF UNEF PERSONNEL,  
SIILASVUO HAS ASKED GAZIT INFORMALLY HOW ISRAELIS  
WOULD FEEL ABOUT USE OF UNTSO OFFICERS IN THAT AREA.  
AS YOU KNOW, PROBLEM IS THAT UNTSO HAS THIRTY-FIVE  
OR SO SOVIETS. SIILASVUO SAID HE WOULD STATION THEM  
IN AREAS WHERE THERE WOULD BE NO CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS.  
GAZIT QUERIED JERUSALEM AND GOT ANSWER THAT ISRAEL  
DOES NOT WANT SOVIETS IN SOUTHERN AREA AT ALL. HE  
HAS TOLD SIILASVUO, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTED TO CON-  
SULT WITH US, AND HE THINKS THIS MAY BE RAISED WITH  
YOU. I SAID I WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON POSITION.

2. UN OFFICER JONAH CAME TO ME LATER WITH ADDED UN  
RATIONALE FOR THIS PURPOSE -- NAMELY, PUTTING UN IN  
POSITION TO OFFSET PARTIALLY SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH  
SPECIAL US ROLE IN SINAI BY GIVING SOVIET OFFICERS  
ACTIVE ROLE IN UNDER NEW AGREEMENT.

3. I AM NOT SURE THIS ROLE WILL HAVE MORE THAN MAR-  
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GINAL EFFECT ON SOVIET ATTITUDE SINCE SOVIET OFFICERS

ALREADY PARTICIPATE IN UNTSO, BUT SECRETARY WILL HAVE HIS OWN VIEW ON THIS POINT AFTER TALKS WITH GROMYKO. LARGER QUESTION IN EGYPT-ISRAEL-UN CONTEXT IS HOW FAR PRACTICE OF LIMITING SOVIET UNTSO ROLE GOES ONCE ISRAELI SENSITIVITY IS SATISFIED ON POINT OF NOT DEALING DIRECTLY WITH COUNTRIES NOT HAVING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ISRAELIS WILL ARGUE THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE TRUSTWORTHY OBSERVERS IN DELICATE SOUTHERN AREA, BUT THEY WOULD AT MOST BE A DOZEN OFFICERS IN CONTEXT OF UNEF OPERATION NUMBERING 650 OR MORE.

4. MY OWN VIEW WOULD BE TO LET SIILASVUO DISPOSE OF HIS FORCES ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ISRAELI SENSITIVITY ABOUT NOT DEALING DIRECTLY. I AM NOT SURE HE NEEDED TO RAISE ISSUE AT ALL.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS ON US POSITION YOU WISH CONVEYED TO GAZIT AND SIILASVUO ON THIS POINT.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT PROMPTLY TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV. DALE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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